



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

March 2014 Newsletter

SCSC Meetings

The State Charter Schools Commission last met on February 26, 2014. For the meeting minutes, click [here](#). The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Board Room. The 2014 Commission meeting calendar is available [here](#).

2014 SCSC Petition Cycle

The petition application for the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) 2014 Petition Review Cycle is now available on the SCSC website under the [Information for Petitioners](#) tab. For the 2014 Petition Review Cycle, new start-up charter schools must plan to open in the 2015-2016 school year or later.

As a reminder, in most instances petitioners must also submit the petition to the local board of education in which the school will be located in accordance with the local procedures and deadlines. Local school districts deadlines vary throughout the state. It is incumbent on the charter petitioner to identify the appropriate deadlines. More information about the requirements for submitting a petition to the SCSC and local board of education is on the SCSC website under the [Petition Application](#) tab. Additionally, schools that designate a defined attendance zone (other than statewide) must also have submitted a letter of intent to the local school district and the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) prior to the applicable deadlines.

Completed petitions must be received by the SCSC by 4:00 PM on May 15, 2014. The SCSC intends to act to approve or deny petitions at its meeting on September 24, 2014.

You may learn about the SCSC's petition review process by reviewing [SCSC Rule 691-2-.02 State Charter School Petitions](#). Presentation materials from the SCSC's Petitioner Boot Camp are also available for review on the SCSC website under the [Information for Petitioners](#) tab. To better understand SCSC expectations and how a state charter school operates, you may also wish to review the Petition Evaluation Guide available on the SCSC website under the [Petition Evaluation](#) tab and state charter school guidance under the [Guidance](#) tab.

For questions regarding the SCSC petition review process, please contact Gregg Stevens at gregg.stevens@scsc.georgia.gov.

State Assessment Monitoring

As the statewide standardized assessment season begins this spring, the SCSC would like to remind schools of strategies that ensure the security and reliability of assessments throughout test administration. A comprehensive list of testing protocols and best practices can be found in the [GaDOE Student Assessment Handbook](#). Additionally, SCSC staff, in coordination with the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) and the GaDOE, will conduct spot-check monitoring of state charters throughout the administration of state assessments. Monitoring will occur at various school testing sites—which will be selected at random—in order to assist GaDOE and GOSA in their efforts to maintain the validity and integrity of state assessments, as well as student achievement results. For those schools selected for monitoring, the full cooperation of state charter school staff and leadership is expected and appreciated.

For questions about testing protocols, please contact Tony Eitel, GaDOE Director of Assessment Administration at 404.656.0478 or aeitel@doe.k12.ga.us.

Training Opportunities

The following training sessions have been scheduled. To attend a training opportunity, please RSVP to lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov.

Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Systems (TKES and LKES)

Georgia Department of Education, Atlanta, Georgia

March 26-28, 2014 (TKES) and April 14-15, 2014 (LKES)

This training session is for **state charter leaders and governing board members**. All state charters are required to implement the Teacher Keys Effectiveness System (TKES) and the Leader Keys Effectiveness System (LKES) in the 2014-15 school year, GaDOE trainers will review the evaluation system and participants will become credentialed to conduct evaluations. At a minimum, two individuals per school should be credentialed to conduct TKES evaluations and two individuals per school should be credentialed to conduct LKES evaluations. School leaders should evaluate teachers and governing board members should evaluate the school leader.

"How to be an LEA"

Atlanta Airport Marriott Gateway, Atlanta, Georgia

May 8-9, 2014

The "How to be a Local Education Agency" training session is for **state charter leaders and relevant personnel**. In addition to operating as independent schools, state charters serve as independent local education agencies (LEAs). Throughout this two-day training session, state officials will speak on key federal and state programs to assist state charters in their responsibilities as LEAs. Topics will include: Federal Title Programs; State and Federal Funding; the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI); Data Access, Usage and Collection; School Safety and Facilities; among others. The SCSC will reimburse travel expenses for attendees in accordance with state guidelines.

A comprehensive list of 2013-2014 SCSC training opportunities is available [here](#). Please note this is a draft list to assist schools in planning and dates/topics are subject to change. For questions about training opportunities, please contact Lauren Wright Holcomb, SCSC Director of Organizational and Resource Development, at lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov or (404) 656-2822.

Reporting Deadlines

Please note the upcoming reporting items due in **March and April**:

Title Programs - Title I Significant Growth or Expansion

Data Collection - CPI, FTE, Student Class- Class Size, Teacher Class

A full list of FY14 reporting items and associated deadlines can be found [here](#). For questions about reporting deadlines, please contact Terence Washington, SCSC Accountability Manager, at terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov or (404) 656-2837.

Emergency Management Protocol Update

To ensure efficient communication in emergency situations, the GaDOE is requesting superintendents provide a cell phone number and email address through the My GaDOE Portal. This information is considered highly confidential and will only be used by the State School Superintendent or the Georgia Emergency Management Agency when it is essential to communicate critically important information to schools as quickly as possible.

Instructions:

1. Click on the following link: <https://portal.doe.k12.ga.us/Login.aspx>
 2. Enter your user name and password. If you do not have your user name and password, you can click on the link located on that page to reset your user name and password, or you can call the GaDOE Helpdesk at 404-656-2800.
 3. Once you have entered your user name and password, on the far left side of the screen towards the bottom, you will see your profile containing your name.
 4. Click on your name.
 5. This will open a screen that will allow you to update or enter your contact information (cell phone and email address).
 6. Once you have entered your information, please click the "update person" button at the bottom left.
 7. Sign out of your account.
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Funding and Professional Development Opportunities

SCSC staff have identified the following grant and professional development opportunities that may be of benefit to state charters. A full list of SCSC-identified grant opportunities is available [here](#).

How to be an Effective Charter School Founding Board Member Training **Georgia Charter Schools Association**

The charter school community has a critical need for founding board members with the skills required to steer charters schools from mission development, through petition submission, to becoming operational.

GCSA is pleased to offer a **free** training for individuals who have a heart for education and a desire to serve the charter school community. If you have expertise in education, business, law, human resources, marketing, fundraising, or other specialized fields -- or if you have strong community and business ties in a particular community, your service can be invaluable to current or future charter public schools.

The Melia Hotel - Norcross Room
590 West Peachtree St NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Tuesday, March 18
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Attendees must complete this short survey to enroll: https://www.surveymonkey.coms/Board_Bank_Interest_2014.
Please also RSVP your attendance to [Kelly Cadman](#).

Summer Academy for English Language Arts and Mathematics Educators

Georgia Department of Education

The GaDOE is pleased to provide Summer Academies for Georgia English Language Arts and Mathematics at a number of sites throughout the state. See below regarding more specific information for each content area Summer Academy.

English Language Arts

Relying on teacher feedback from last summer's "Institutes," outstanding English teachers from across Georgia will provide interactive workshops by grade bands K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. A focus on writing, along with an emphasis on rigor and relevance, will enhance each session for reading literary and informational texts, research, vocabulary, language, and other standards-based instructional practices. Dates and additional information are available [here](#). Please submit your district point of contact for English Language Arts to Carolyn Waters at cwaters@doe.k12.ga.us.

Mathematics

Master Georgia mathematics educators will facilitate grade level sessions for teachers of kindergarten through grade eight, along with high school sessions for teachers of Coordinate Algebra, Analytic Geometry, Advanced Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Statistical Reasoning, and Advanced Mathematical Decision Making, at seven school sites across the state. The end goal of the professional learning opportunity will be to enhance the participants' content knowledge base in a particular grade level or course. Dates and additional information are available [here](#). Please submit your district point of contact for Mathematics to Sandi Woodall at swoodall@doe.k12.ga.us.

GaDOE will work with district points of contact to identify teacher participants by April 15, 2014. Attendee substitutions will be accepted through May 22, 2014 based on session availability.

12th Annual Statewide Title Programs Conference

Georgia Department of Education

The 12th Annual Statewide Title Programs Conference will be held June 17-20, 2014, in Atlanta, Georgia at the Marriott Atlanta Airport Gateway located at 2020 Convention Center Concourse, Atlanta, GA 30337 (800) 228-9290. The Spring Hill Suites adjacent to the property will be the conference's overflow hotel. **More information on hotel registration will be sent out in early March 2014.**

The schedule for the 2014 conference is different than previous years. The Homeless Liaisons and/or Title I Directors that serve as their district's liaison should plan to attend the Homeless Liaison Workshop portion of the conference which will take place on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, for the entire day. Beginning on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, the conference will have a half-day training for the New Title I Directors Workshop in the morning, and in the afternoon, GaDOE will begin the 12th Annual Statewide Title Programs Conference. On Thursday morning June 19, 2014, right after the continental breakfast, GaDOE will present the awards to the Title I Reward Districts followed by breakout sessions. On Friday, June 20, 2014, breakout sessions and the conference will end at noon. In addition, Title III, Part A— Language Instruction for LEP and Immigrant Coordinator Programs will be providing several sessions at the conference that are normally presented to districts in the fall by Title III.

This year will be focus primarily on federal programs compliance and technical assistance. A suggestion from districts was not to schedule the Meet Your Title I Education Program Specialist session at the end of the day. GaDOE will schedule these Specialist sessions for each district during the regular conference presentation time.

Contact: Margo DeLaune, GaDOE Title Programs Director, (404) 657-1796 or mdelaune@doe.k12.ga.us

Charter Board Bank

Georgia Charter Schools Association

The Georgia Charter Schools Association (GCSA) is launching a Board Bank to attract professionals with a heart for public service to be trained in governance and ready to serve when openings arise on public charter boards. Key information about members in the Board Bank, including their skills and interests, will be published to member schools. Member schools will utilize this list to source candidates matching their needs for consideration in filling open governing board positions. That's where we need you and others like you! Please consider being a part of the GCSA Board Bank and/or sharing this with others you know who might be interested. For those interested, complete this short survey of information that will be published to our schools: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Board_Bank_Interest_2014.

GCSA will kick off the initiative with a free Charter School Overview and Effective Governance Training that will prepare members for service. If you know individuals or companies/organizations with a strong commitment to community service and children, please pass along this opportunity.

Contact: Kelly Cadman, GCSA Vice President, School Services, (404) 835-8916 or kcadman@gacharters.org

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